

## FANCY PLEATS

**MATERIALS:**

- Fabric
- Tailor's chalk or marker pen

**What are pleats?**

A pleat is a narrow sewn fold in your fabric. Pleated fabric can be used in everything from clothing to home interior accessories.

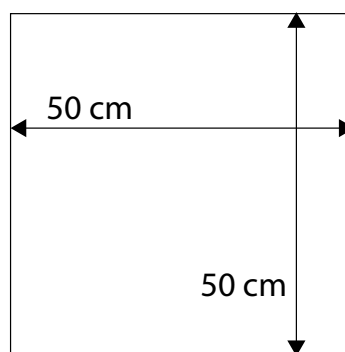
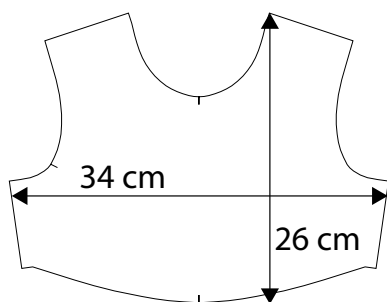
The cushions shown here have a finished pleat width of 0.5 cm. There is 1 cm space between the pleats.

For calculation: Add 1 cm less to the pleats than the pattern piece measurement. See calculation examples.

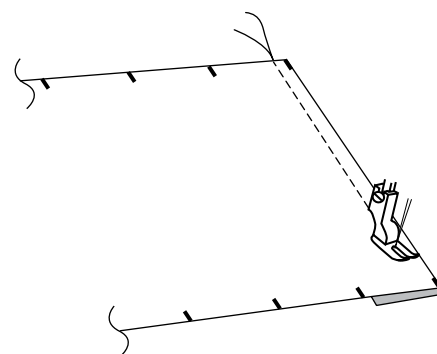
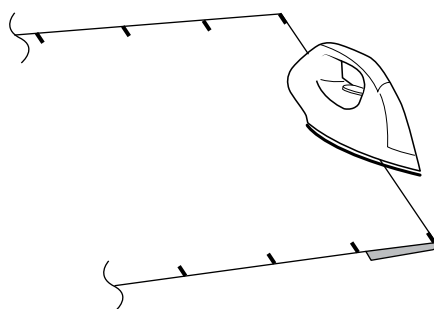
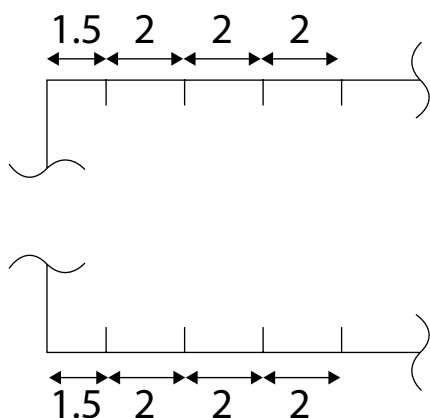
Once you have sewn pleats into your fabric, place the pattern on the fabric and cut out.



**Example 1:** For a front where the pattern piece is 34 cm wide (including seam allowance), add about 3 cm extra to ensure that your pleated fabric is wide enough.  $34 + 3 = 37$  cm + 36 cm for pleats. Your fabric piece must therefore be 73 cm wide and at least 26 cm from top to bottom.



**Example 2:** For a cushion that is 50 cm wide, add 49 cm for the pleats. Your fabric piece must therefore be 99 cm wide and 50 cm from top to bottom.

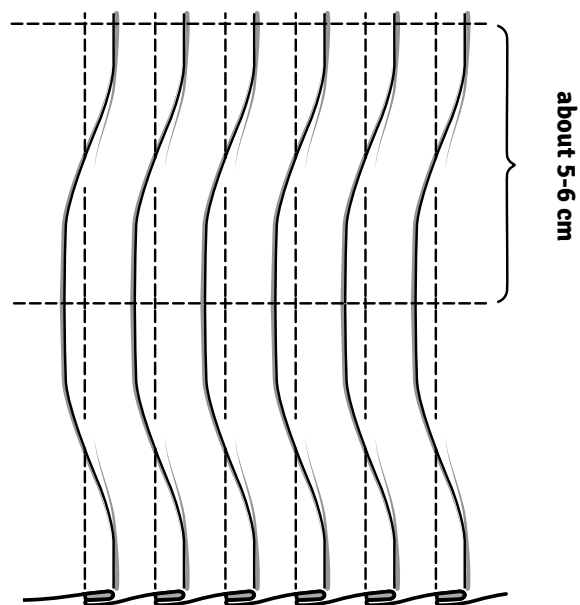
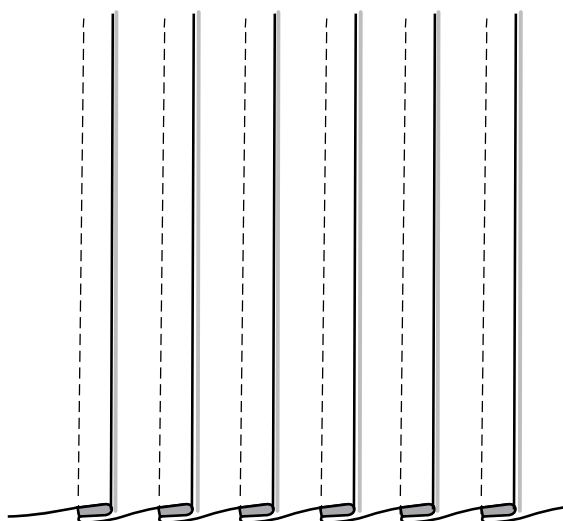


**1.** Mark up your pleats. Cut a small notch at the edge of the fabric at the top and bottom. Mark up the first pleat 1.5 cm from the edge and mark subsequent pleats at 2 cm intervals. The last pleat will be 1.5 cm from the edge.

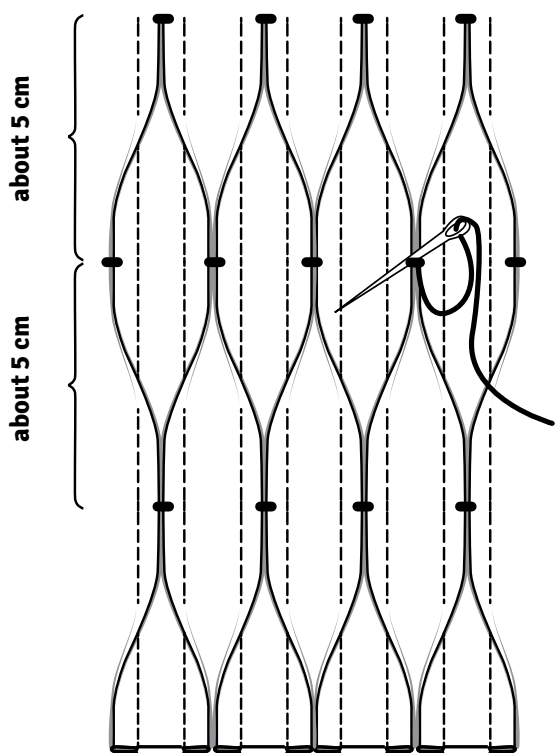
**2.** Pleat the fabric across the width, working from notch to notch. If you wish, you can fold the fabric around a strip of cardboard to make precise pleat folds. Press.

**3.** Sew a line of stitching 0.5 cm inside the folding edge. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you have sewn all the pleats.

**A.** Press all the pleats to the same side.  
(starting point for B and C)



**C. Harlequin pattern:** Sew the pleats to form a harlequin pattern. Hand-stitch at intervals of about 5 cm. Carefully press over the hand-stitching and about 1.5 cm on each side of the stitching to ensure that the pleats are even.



**B. Fancy pleats:** Stitch across the pleats. Make sure the stitching lines are equidistant. Measure a distance of 5-6 cm between the lines of stitching. At each line of stitching, lay the pleats flat alternately from one side to the other. Carefully press over the stitching and about 1.5 cm on each side of the stitching to ensure that the pleats are even.

